

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

September 1, 2004 Crop Prospects
State Rankings: Harvested acres, 2003
State Rankings: Crop Production, 2003
Cash receipts from Sales, 2003

Louisiana Crop Prospects

“This year has turned out to be disappointing for Louisiana farmers, after setting record yields in 2003. The September 1 yield forecast is down for all major crops except corn. The only increases in Louisiana’s production of major crops from 2003 are rice and soybeans and these increases are the result of increased acreage from 2003.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 28.1 million cwt, down 8 percent from last month, but up 6 percent from 2003. Acreage of rice expected for harvest was revised to 530,000 acres, down 15,000 acres from the June 1 estimate. The expected yield per acre, at 5,300 pounds, is down 300 pounds from last month and 570 pounds from last year’s record yield.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 12.4 million net tons, down 6 percent from last month and down 4 percent from last year. The acreage expected for harvest is down 10,000 acres, to 475,000 acres. This is responsible for the decrease in expected production. Yield is estimated at 26 net tons per acre, fractionally below last year’s yield.

Louisiana’s **cotton** production is expected to total 650,000 bales, unchanged from last month, but down 37 percent from 2003. Acreage expected for harvest is forecast at 490,000 acres. Yield per acre, at 637 pounds, is unchanged from the previous month, but down 330 pounds from last year’s record yield.

Soybean production is expected to total 29.5 million bushels in Louisiana, up 3 percent from the previous month and up 17 percent from a year ago. Yield is forecast at 31 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from last month but down 3 bushels from last year.

Louisiana’s **corn** production is forecast at 60.1 million bushels, up 8 percent from last month, but down 10 percent from a year ago. Yield per acre, at 135 bushels, is up 10 bushels from last month. If realized, this would be the second highest yield on record in the state. Louisiana’s record yield was set in 2001 when the state averaged 148 bushels per acre.

Sorghum production is estimated at 6.18 million bushels in the state, compared to 14.0 million bushels last year. Yield is forecast at 65 bushels per acre, down 20 bushels from last year.

United States Crop Prospects

Rice production is forecast at 222 million cwt, up fractionally from August and up 11 percent from 2003. Rice planted area was revised up 18,000 acres from the June estimate to 3.36 million acres and is 11 percent above 2003. Harvested area was revised up 16,000 acres from August to 3.33 million acres and is 11 percent above 2003. As of September 1, the U.S. all rice yield is forecast at a record high 6,651 pounds per acre. This yield is down 29 pounds from the August forecast but up 6 pounds from the record high yield established in 2003.

As of August 29, rice harvest in Louisiana and Texas was 75 percent and 71 percent complete, respectively. Louisiana lagged the 5-year average by 1 percentage point, while Texas lagged by 11 points. Arkansas and California harvest, at 3 percent complete, and Missouri harvest, at 1 percent complete, were just getting under way.

Sugarcane production for sugar and seed in 2004 is forecast at 31.7 million tons, 2 percent below the August forecast and 6 percent below 2003. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 961,600 acres for sugar and seed during the 2004 crop year, down 1 percent from August and 3 percent less than last year’s final harvested area. Yield is forecast at 33.0 tons per acre, 0.4 ton below the previous forecast and 1.0 ton below the 2003 yield. In Louisiana, the harvested area forecast declined 10,000 acres from August. Louisiana’s yield forecast also dropped by 1.0 ton, due to dry conditions in August.

Upland cotton production is forecast at 20.2 million bales, up 4 percent from the August forecast and 13 percent above 2003. The cotton crop in the Delta States was over a week behind their 5-year average development at the end of the month. Mostly dry and warm conditions allowed growth and development to accelerate at the beginning of August. Cooler than normal air covered most of the Delta during mid-August. By the end of the month, warmer temperatures returned to most of the region. The duration of below normal temperatures raised concerns about the maturity of the crop, but the crop condition remained near last month.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.84 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the August forecast but 17 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be the second highest production on record. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 38.5 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushel from August. Below-normal temperatures and adequate moisture across most of the Corn Belt, the Great Plains, and the Delta in August favored the soybean crop during the critical stages of development. However, yield prospects declined in the northern tier of States due to cool weather. A brief period of freezing temperatures slowed the development of a crop already behind in maturity in North Dakota and Minnesota.

Corn production is forecast at 11.0 billion bushels, up fractionally from last month and 8 percent above 2003. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 149.4 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel from August and 7.2 bushels above last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous record for both was set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre. Yields are forecast at record high levels in all Corn Belt States, except Minnesota and Wisconsin, as weather conditions have been mostly favorable throughout the growing season. However, brief periods of freezing temperatures in the northern Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains raised concerns about the crop being able to fully develop before a killing frost occurs.

Sorghum: Production is forecast at 472 million bushels, up 2 percent from last month and up 15 percent from 2003. Based on September 1 conditions, the sorghum yield is forecast at 68.3 bushels per acre, up 1.1 bushels from August and 15.6 bushels from last year. The yield forecast for Kansas, at 75 bushels, is up 3 bushels from last month. Texas, the second leading producer, expects a yield of 61 bushels per acre, unchanged from August. Acreage expected to be harvested for grain in the U.S. is 6.92 million acres, unchanged from August but 11 percent lower than the 2003 harvested grain acreage.

CROP REPORT - LOUISIANA September 1, 2004

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2003	2004	2003	2004		2003	2004
Corn for grain	500	445	134	135	bushels	67,000	60,075
Upland Cotton	510	490	967	637	lbs: bales	1,027	650
Rice	450	530	5,870	5,300	lbs: cwt	26,397	28,090
Sorghum for grain	165	95	85	65	bushels	14,025	6,175
Soybeans	740	950	34	31	bushels	25,160	29,450
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	490	475	26.2	26.0	net tons	12,838	12,350
Hay, all ¹	380	360	2.9	2.3	tons	1,102	828

CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES September 1, 2004

CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2003	2004	2003	2004		2003	2004
Corn for grain	71,139	73,377	142.2	149.4	bushels	10,113,887	10,960,710
Upland Cotton	11,826	12,970	723	747	lbs: bales	17,822.9	20,185.0
Rice	2,997	3,334	6,645	6,651	lbs: cwt	199,157	221,731
Sorghum for grain	7,798	6,916	52.7	68.3	bushels	411,237	442,269
Soybeans	72,321	73,655	33.4	38.5	bushels	2,417,565	2,835,989
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	994.4	961.6	34.0	33.0	net tons	33,857	31,685
Hay, all ¹	63,342	61,589	2.48	2.63	tons	157,114	161,977

¹Estimates for current year carried forward from an earlier forecast.

**State Rankings - Harvested Acres, Selected Crops:
Louisiana and 10 Leading States, 2003**

Item	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	LA Rank
Corn for Grain	IA	IL	NE	MN	IN	SD	OH	WI	MO	KS	20
Upland Cotton	TX	GA	MS	AR	NC	CA	TN	AL	LA	MO	9
All Rice	AR	CA	LA	MS	TX	MO					3
Sorghum for Grain	KS	TX	NE	OK	AR	MO	LA	CO	SD	IL	7
Soybeans	IA	IL	MN	IN	MO	NE	OH	SD	ND	AR	18
Sugarcane	LA	FL	TX	HI							1
Sweet Potatoes	NC	LA	MS	CA	TX	AL	NJ	SC	VA		2
All Wheat	KS	ND	MT	OK	TX	SD	WA	CO	MN	NE	30
Total Acres of Principal Crops Harvested¹	IA	IL	KS	ND	MN	TX	NE	SD	MO	IN	26

¹ Crops included are corn, sorghum, oats, barley, winter wheat, rye, durum wheat, other spring wheat, rice, soybeans, peanuts, sunflowers, cotton, dry edible beans, potatoes, canola, proso millet and sugarbeets. Includes double cropped acres and unharvested small grains planted as cover crops.

**State Rankings - Crop Production, Selected Crops:
Louisiana and 10 Leading States, 2003**

Item	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	LA Rank
Corn for Grain	IA	IL	NE	MN	IN	OH	SD	WI	MO	KS	20
Upland Cotton	TX	GA	MS	AR	CA	NC	LA	TN	AL	MO	7
All Rice	AR	CA	LA	MS	TX	MO					3
Sorghum for Grain	TX	KS	NE	AR	MO	LA	OK	IL	SD	MS	6
Soybeans for Grain	IL	IA	MN	IN	NE	OH	MO	SD	AR	ND	18
Sugarcane	FL	LA	HI	TX							2
Sweet Potatoes	NC	LA	CA	MS	TX	AL	SC	NJ	VA		2
All Wheat	KS	ND	OK	WA	MT	SD	MN	TX	ID	NE	31

Cash Receipts From Sales: Louisiana, 2003

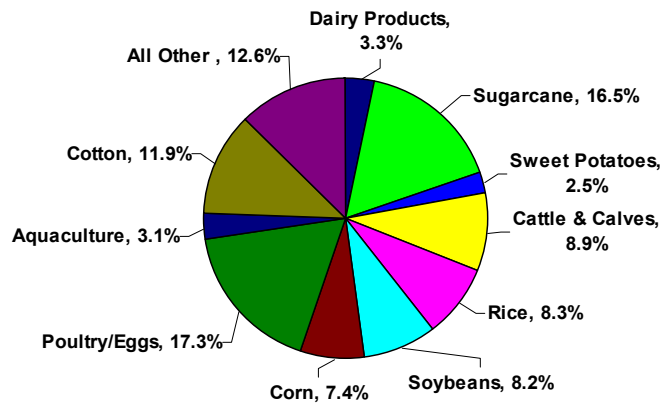
Rank	Commodity	Cash Receipts Dollars	Percent Of Total
1	Poultry/Eggs	345,283,000	17.3
2	Sugarcane	329,212,000	16.5
3	Cotton	238,047,000	11.9
4	Cattle & Calves	178,288,000	8.9
5	Rice	165,575,000	8.3
6	Soybeans	163,381,000	8.2
7	Corn	147,601,000	7.4
8	Dairy Products	66,040,000	3.3
9	Aquaculture	62,005,000	3.1
10	Sweet Potatoes	49,359,000	2.5
	All Other Commodities	248,569,000	12.6
	Total Cash Receipts	1,993,360,000	

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Louisiana Cash Receipts by Commodity



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Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service
(225) 922-1362
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Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038